

# Tabourie Memories: Tabourie Motor Inn

The Tabourie Motor Inn, or the "Hop In" as it was formerly named, was for a time owned by Terry and Cathy Maloney, who purchased the property in the late 70's. They lived in the on-site residence with their three children. The Maloney's were well respected in the area and did much to improve the motel, which impacted positively on the community.

They certainly suffered their share of hardship, however. On 29 February 1980 a fire destroyed their residence and the garage and kitchen of the motel. There was also extensive damage to the dining area and the motel units. The Maloney's lost all their personal possessions and things looked grim for the future of the motel. The Maloney's didn't give up though and the community rallied around to help rebuild the motel. Tragedy struck again in October of 1980, when Terry's mother Evelyn, who was the chef at the motel's public restaurant, was killed in a fatal car accident at Tabourie.

Just prior to the fire the Maloney's had decided to make major improvements to the motel, including making it fully accessible for wheelchairs. Ramps were installed and every unit was made fully accessible, with hand-held showers and all doors opening a full 180 degrees. The renovations included a pool and tennis courts and the total amount spent was \$250,00. The motel reopened after these renovations in 1982.

21 April 1982 *Milton Ulladulla Times*



## FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPED

The units at the Tabourie Hop In Motel look like most other motel units. And a quick inspection is not sufficient to see the many features which have been incorporated to make it suitable for handicapped people.

However on further perusal one can easily see many little items that have been included in the rooms and quite a few larger features which also have been installed specifically for the disabled.

None of these features would make the stay of an unhandicapped person any different to any other motel and in fact people who are not handicapped would not even realise.

In the bathroom for instance there is no hob around the shower-thus allowing wheelchairs to be wheeled under the shower.

And the shower is attached to a flexible hose which can be lifted off the wall.

The toilet is slightly lower and the hand rail in the toilet is again for the handicapped.

In some bedrooms all the cupboards open with the door opening a full 180 degrees.

This again allows a person in a wheel chair to wheel right up to the cupboards without the restriction of a door.

In the kitchen, the cupboards are narrower so the person in a wheelchair can reach over to taps and the like.

Everything is accessible and of course ramps take the place of steps.

These include ramps up to the bathroom and ramps outside.

In fact in a wheelchair everything is accessible.

Whether the guest wishes to go to the pool or barbecue area or to his car he can do so easily in the chair.

The pool is to be heated and it is the focal point of the motel.

The new units all face north and overlook the landscaped pool area and being set back from the highway noise from passing traffic kept to a minimum.

A huge water tank has been installed as town water is not available and the pool being lit at night rily creates an attractive setting.

### MORE

Later, six more units will be constructed as will the new restaurant, tennis court while the four units which form part of the old motel will also be added to.

The restaurant and old units will all overlook the swimming pool area.

The units feature colour televisions, bedside tables and lamps as well as the usual motel appointments.

Power points and switches are set lower to cater for the handicapped people.

The Maloney's have expressed their appreciation for the special effort and help from the builders, Ogilvie and Johnston as well as the plumber, Ted Coleman and Terry's father Pat.

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## OWNERS OVERCOME TRAGEDY

Tragedy has haunted the owners of the Tabourie Hop In Motel who have had to overcome personal grief since they purchased the Motel three years ago.

On February 29, 1980, their livelihood was shattered when a fire destroyed the residence, garage and kitchen area of the motel and severely damaged the dining areas and motel units.

All of their personal possessions were lost in the fire and the future of the motel looked grim.

However, the couple's determination to succeed saw them work tirelessly for the following eight months when the motel was opened again.

Cathy at this time was working as a teacher at the Ulladulla Public School.

The townships of Milton and Ulladulla rallied around the couple in admiration of their fighting spirit and everything started going well for them.

### DEATH

In October 1980, however, personal tragedy struck again when Terry's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Maloney, was killed in a fatal car accident at Tabourie.

Mrs. Maloney had established a wonderful reputation as the chef at the Tabourie Motel Restaurant which was then a public restaurant and her endearing personality allowed her to make many friends in the district.

Her death came as a tragic loss not only to Terry and Cathy but to the entire district.

Terry Maloney told "The Times" that the plans for the extensions to the motel were already in hand.

"Even before the fire we had started working

out what we're going to do," he explained.

He said he and Cathy and Evelyn worked out what the best ideas were for the upgrading of the motel.

"Not many people realised what a setback the fire had been because we really did have to start from scratch," Terry added.

"We wanted the units to be available to people in all walks of life.

"We will be very satisfied when our units are all booked out by handicapped people," Terry said.

Terry and Cathy have three children. Therese

8, Corinne 3 and Kelda 1.

They are keen to have the motel promoted as a tourist resort where people can have extended stays for a week or two weeks or even a month.

The complex has now been valued at almost half a million dollars although there is no way that the Maloney's would sell.

After the fire and then again after the death of Mrs. Maloney the motel was put up for sale but the young family decided to stay and make a go of it rather than to succumb to the terrible setbacks they had faced.

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Pleased to be associated  
with the construction  
of the "Hop-In" Motel.

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